

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A floating gate formed on the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:

a conductive base having a first top portion and a first bottom portion, wherein an edge of the first top portion is a first tip, ~~and the first bottom portion contacts to the semiconductor substrate;~~

a gate dielectric layer interposed between the semiconductor substrate and the conductive base so as to directly contact with the first bottom portion;

a conductive protruding layer protruding from the conductive base, and the conductive protruding layer has a flat top, wherein the conductive protruding layer has a second top portion and a second bottom portion, ~~[[a]]~~ an edge of the second top portion is a second tip, the second bottom portion is connected to the first top portion, the conductive protruding layer has two concave sidewalls; and

wherein a multiple tip floating gate is composed of the conductive base and the conductive protruding layer.

Claim 2 (Original): The floating gate of claim 1, wherein the conductive base is a poly layer.

Claim 3 (Original): The floating gate of claim 1, wherein the conductive protruding layer is a poly layer.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A floating gate formed on the surface of a semiconductor substrate, with a gate dielectric layer formed between the floating gate and the semiconductor substrate, comprising:

a base poly layer having a first top portion and a first bottom portion, wherein an edge of the first top portion is a first tip, and the first bottom portion contacts to the gate dielectric layer; and

a protruding poly layer ~~protruding from~~ on the base poly layer, wherein and the protruding poly layer has a flat top, ~~wherein the protruding poly layer has~~ a second top portion and a second bottom portion, ~~[[a]]~~ an edge of the second top portion is a second tip, the second bottom portion contacts the first top portion, the protruding poly layer has two concave sidewalls,

wherein a multiple tip floating gate is composed of the base poly layer and the protruding poly layer.